

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or ~~[[deletion]]~~):

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A catheter for accessing the heart and engaging a heart valve, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end, the elongate flexible body having housed therein a fastening material configured to suture two heart leaflets together;

an anchor zone on a distal portion of the flexible body; ~~[[and]]~~

~~at least one~~ a first tissue manipulator and a second tissue manipulator carried by the flexible body proximally of the anchor zone, the tissue manipulators being capable of being moved independently of each other and having a fixed end and a free end, the free ends being moveable to an extended position in which the free ends ~~[[is]]~~ are proximal of the fixed ends, the tissue manipulators being disposed at an angle not more than 90 degrees with respect to the elongate flexible body when in the extended position;

a first receptacle located within the first tissue manipulator for receiving a first fixating member;

a second receptacle located within the second tissue manipulator for receiving a second fixating member; and

a first end of a fastening material disposed within the first receptacle and a second end of the fastening material is disposed within the second receptacle;

wherein the distal portion is configured to extend at least into an anatomical region adjoining the heart valve and the anchor zone is configured to orient and anchor the catheter so that the at least one tissue manipulator can be positioned at the valve.

28. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

29. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

30. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

31. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

34. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising at least a first component which is axially moveable with respect to a second component.

35. - 77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend from a left atrium, through a mitral valve and into a left ventricular outflow tract.

79. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

80. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend into through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

81. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

82. (Currently Amended) A catheter for performing a procedure on the heart, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end, a distal end and a length sufficient to reach the heart from a femoral vein access;

at least one a first tissue manipulator, a second tissue manipulator, and a hinge coupled with [[on]] the elongate, flexible body and with one of the first and second tissue manipulators for pivoting the first or the second tissue manipulator away

from the elongate body separately from the other of the first and second tissue manipulators; and

an elongate, flexible distal portion comprising an anchor zone, the distal portion extending distally of the tissue manipulator;

a fastening material adapted for use in suturing two leaflets of a heart, the fastening material being housed within the distal portion;

wherein the distal portion is sufficiently flexible and long that it can extend through the mitral valve and into the left ventricular outflow tract and the anchor zone is configured to orient and anchor the catheter while the tissue manipulator is positioned at a leaflet of the mitral valve.

83. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

84. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

85. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

86. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

87. (Canceled)

88. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

89. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

90. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

91. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 82, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

92. (Canceled)

93. (Currently Amended) The catheter as in Claim ~~[[27]]~~**109**, further comprising a fastening material carried on the flexible body for suturing two leaflets together.

94. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 93, further comprising at least one needle capturing device coupled with an end of the fastening material.

95. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 93, wherein the fastening material is at least partially housed within the tissue manipulator.

96. (Previously presented) The catheter as in Claim 93, wherein the fastening material is at least partially located distal of the tissue manipulator when carried on the flexible body.

97. (Currently Amended) The catheter as in Claim ~~[[32]]~~**27**, wherein the first tissue manipulator is asymmetric to the second tissue manipulator.

98. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 97, wherein the first tissue manipulator is longer than the second tissue manipulator.

99. (Canceled)

100. (Canceled)

101. (Canceled)

102. (Currently Amended) The catheter as in Claim ~~[[87]]~~**82**, wherein the first tissue manipulator is asymmetric to the second tissue manipulator.

103. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 102, wherein the first tissue manipulator is longer than the second tissue manipulator.

104. (Currently Amended) The catheter as in Claim ~~[[100]]~~**109**, wherein a first end of a fastening material is disposed within at least one of the tissue manipulators ~~the first receptacle~~ and a second end of the fastening material is disposed within another one of the tissue manipulators ~~the second receptacle~~.

105. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 94, further comprising a second needle capturing device coupled with a second end of the fastening material.

106. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 93, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

107. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator comprises a first elongate tissue manipulator having a first length and a second

tissue manipulator having a second length, the first and second tissue manipulators both configured to engage portions of a heart valve from the same side of the valve, the second length being greater than the first length.

108. (New) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first and second tissue manipulators are capable of sequential deployment.

109. (New) A catheter for accessing the heart and engaging a heart valve, comprising:
an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end, the elongate flexible body having housed therein a fastening material configured to suture two heart leaflets together;

an anchor zone on a distal portion of the flexible body; and

a plurality of tissue manipulators carried by the flexible body proximally of the anchor zone, the tissue manipulators being movable independently of each other and having a fixed end and a free end, the free ends being moveable to an extended position in which the free end is proximal of the fixed end, the tissue manipulators being disposed at an angle not more than 90 degrees with respect to the elongate flexible body when in the extended position;

wherein the distal portion is configured to extend at least into an anatomical region adjoining the heart valve and the anchor zone is configured to orient and anchor the catheter so that the at least one tissue manipulator can be positioned at the valve.

110. (New) A catheter as in Claim 109, comprising a first and a second tissue manipulator.

111. (New) The catheter as in Claim 110, further comprising a first receptacle located within the first tissue manipulator for receiving a first fixating member.

112. (New) The catheter as in Claim 111, further comprising a second receptacle located within the second tissue manipulator for receiving a second fixating member.